



ARMS SALES TOPIC: TOPICALITY ARGUMENTS

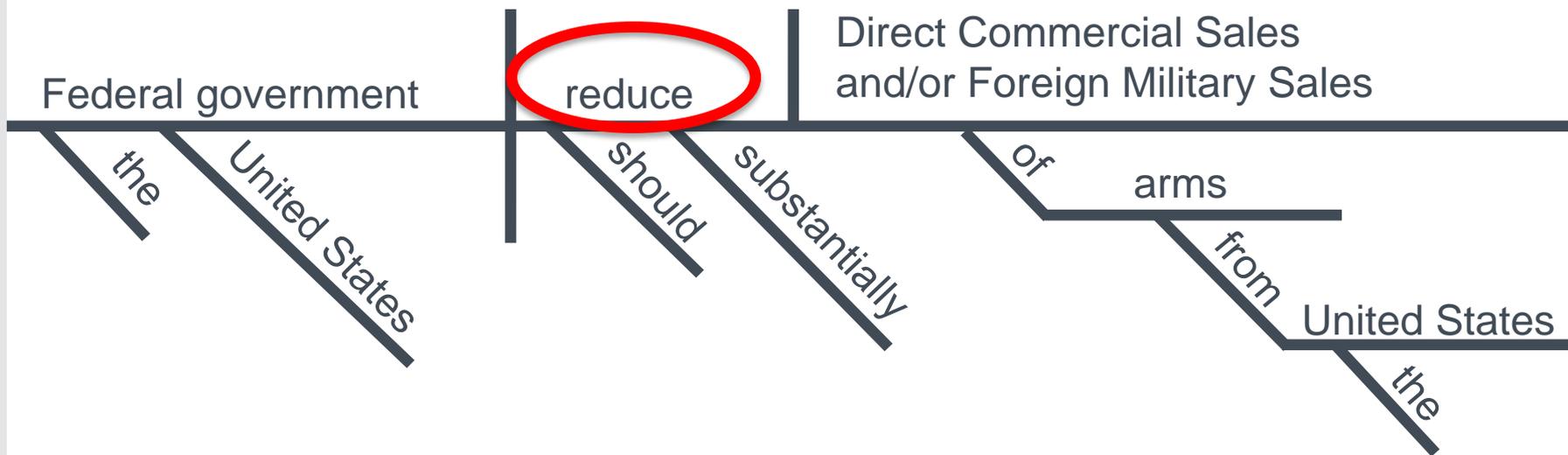
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Some possible topicality arguments for the 2019-20 resolution:
Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.
A look at negative topicality arguments provided by Rich Edwards, Baylor University

TOPICALITY: “REDUCE” DOES NOT MEAN ABOLISH



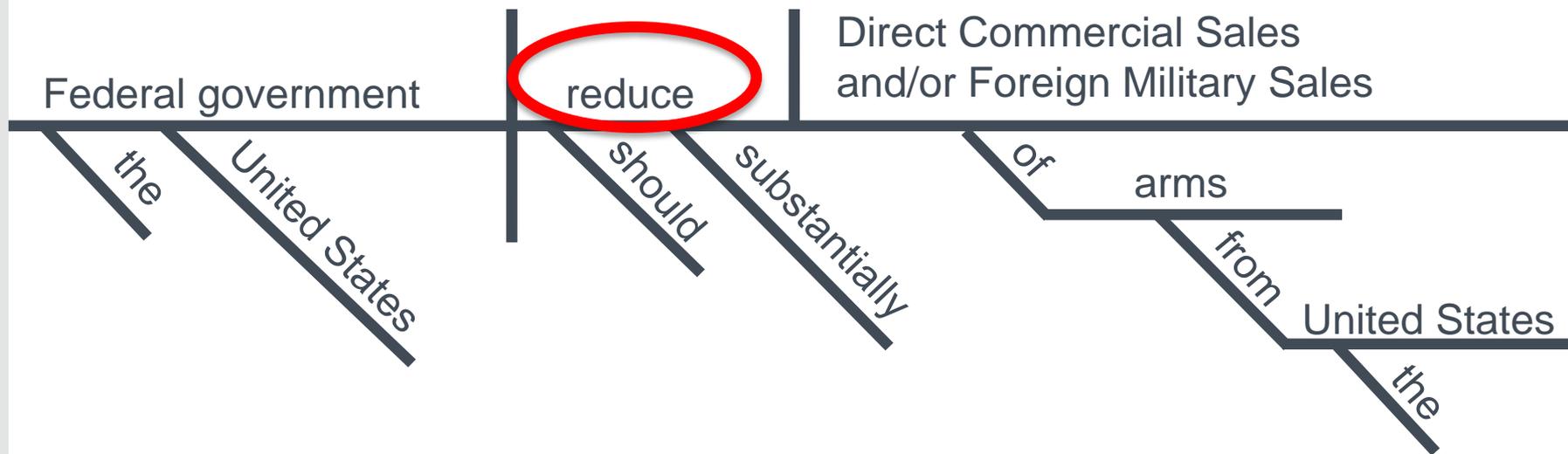
“Reduce” does not mean “eliminate” – Many cases will eliminate arms sales of particular types or to particular countries.

Christine Lindberg, (Editor), OXFORD AMERICAN COLLEGE DICTIONARY, 2002, 1140. Reduce: Bring something to a lower or weaker state.

G L Colgan (Chief Judge), XTREME DINING LIMITED TRADING v. LEIGHTON DEWAR, Oct. 31, 2016. Retrieved May 14, 2018 from <https://www.employmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Decisions/2016-NZEmpC-136-Think-Steel-v-Dewar.pdf>. When construing a contract taking the word in its ordinary meaning “reduce” does not mean “abolish”.



“REDUCE” IS NOT CONDITIONAL



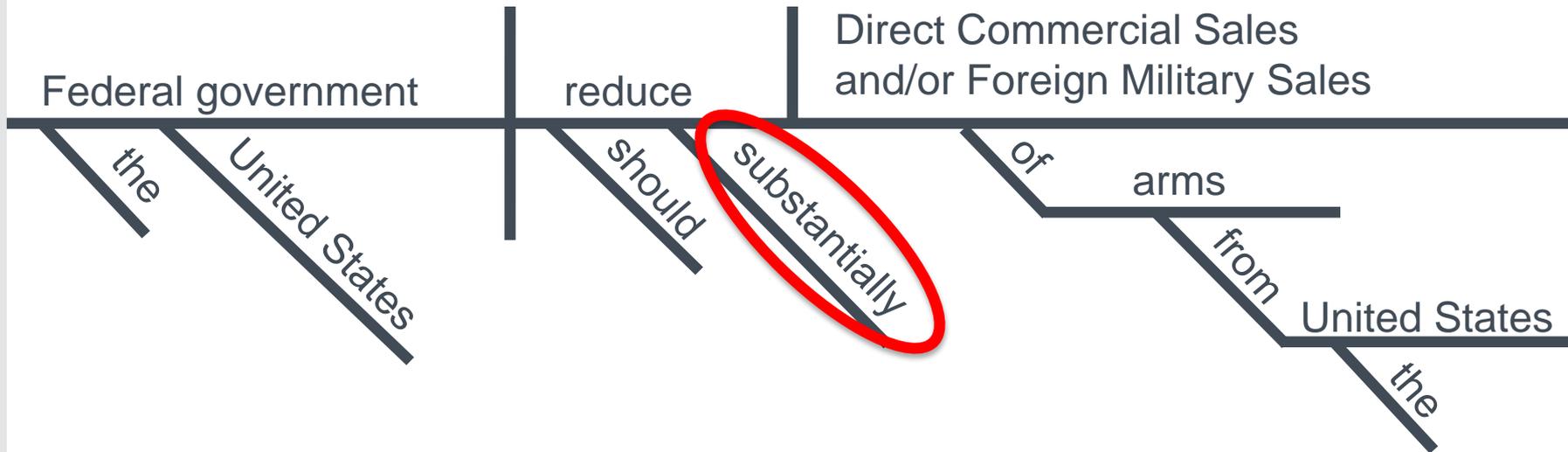
Conditional plans do not reduce; if the conditions are met, there is no reduction:

John Morse, (Editor), MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY, 1998, 980. Reduce: To diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.

Plans that condition continued U.S. arms sales upon changing human rights practices or the ending of the war in Yemen would not actually result in any reduction in U.S. arms sales; instead, countries would bow to U.S. conditions (, allowing the sales to continue unabated. Such plans also unfairly intrude upon negative counterplan ground.



“SUBSTANTIALLY” DOES NOT ALLOW FOR CONDITIONS OR QUALIFICATIONS

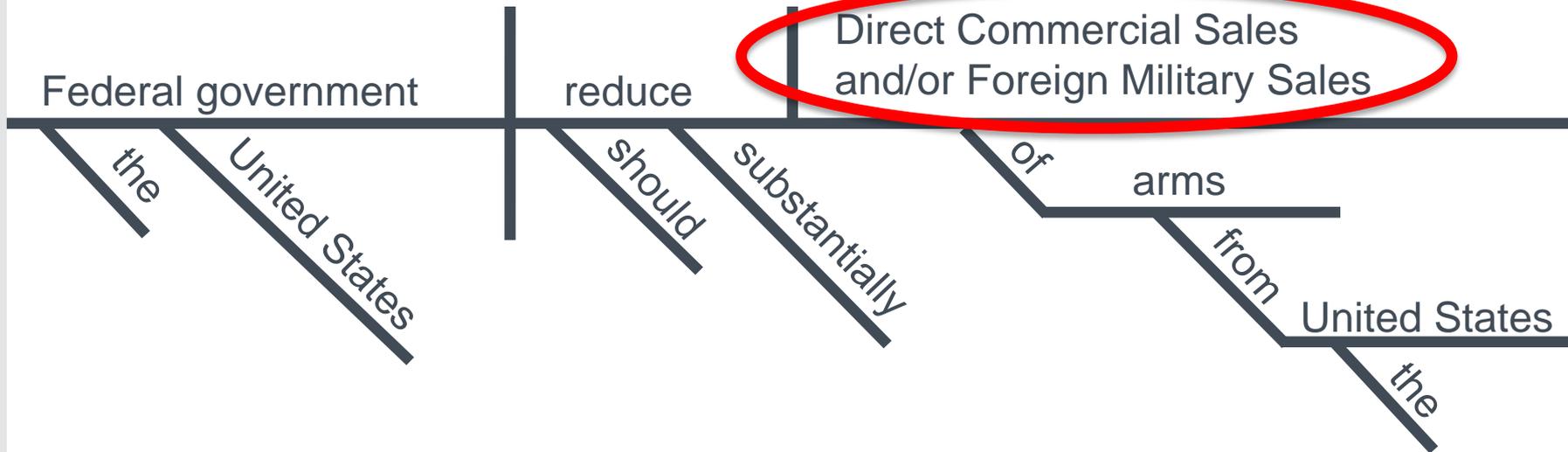


Substantially: Without material qualification—plans which establish conditions on the reduction or restoration of arms sales are not topical

BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY, Feb. 5, 2014. Retrieved May 10, 2017 from <https://www.novoco.com/notes-from-novogradac/close-enough-how-measure-substantially-similar-under-fasbs-new-lihtc-investment-guidance>. Substantially: Essentially; without material qualification; in the main; in substance, materially; in a substantial manner



NOT DCS (DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES) OR FMS (FOREIGN MILITARY SALES)

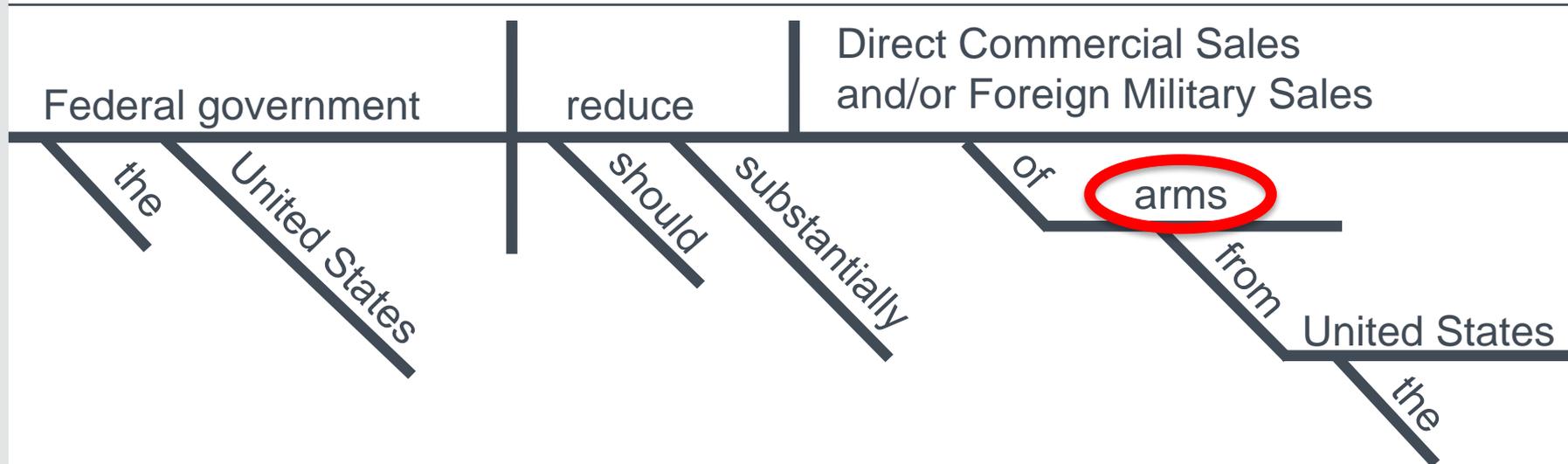


Arms Sales Monitoring Project (Subdivision of the Federation of American Scientists), ARMS SALES HANDBOOK, Dec. 1, 2018. Retrieved Feb. 21, 2019 from <https://fas.org/asmp/library/handbook/WaysandMeans.html>. The five principle (legal) means by which America exports weapons and military services abroad are foreign military sales (FMS), direct commercial sales (DCS), leases of equipment, transfers of excess defense articles (EDA) and emergency drawdowns of weaponry.

Many types of military exports are not DCS or FMS; a prime example is the provision of the THAAD ballistic missile defense system to South Korea.



NOT “ARMS”



Must be “weapons,” not International Military Education and Training or software downloads (Software for the 3D Printing of Guns)

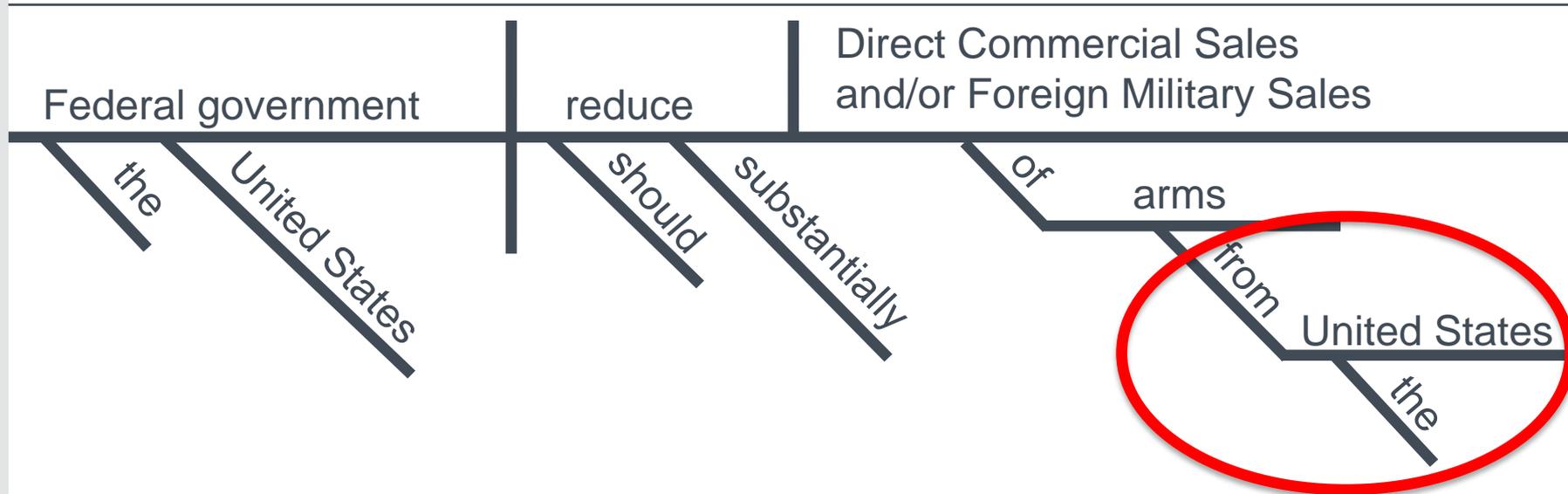
COLLINS ENGLISH DICTIONARY, 2006, 86. Arm: To equip with weapons in preparation for war.

IMET does not provide “arms”: SECURITY ASSISTANCE MONITOR, Nov. 6, 2018. Retrieved June 17, 2019 from

<https://www.securityassistance.org/content/international%20military%20education%20and%20training>. International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds provide training and education on a grant basis to students from allied and friendly nations.



NOT “FROM THE UNITED STATES”



The plan must reduce U.S. arms sales in order to be topical; it is insufficient for topicality purposes if other nations reduce their arms sales.

Some teams may claim that U.S. accession to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will actually not change anything for U.S. arms sales (since Congressional checks are already in place), but that U.S. accession will cause other nations to join and change their arms sales policies. Changing the arms sales practices of other countries is insufficient for topicality.

